

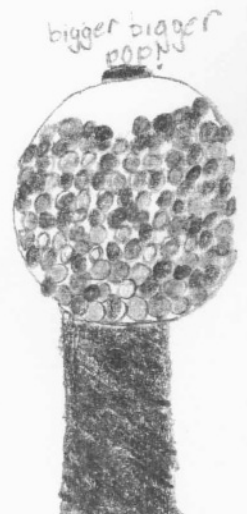
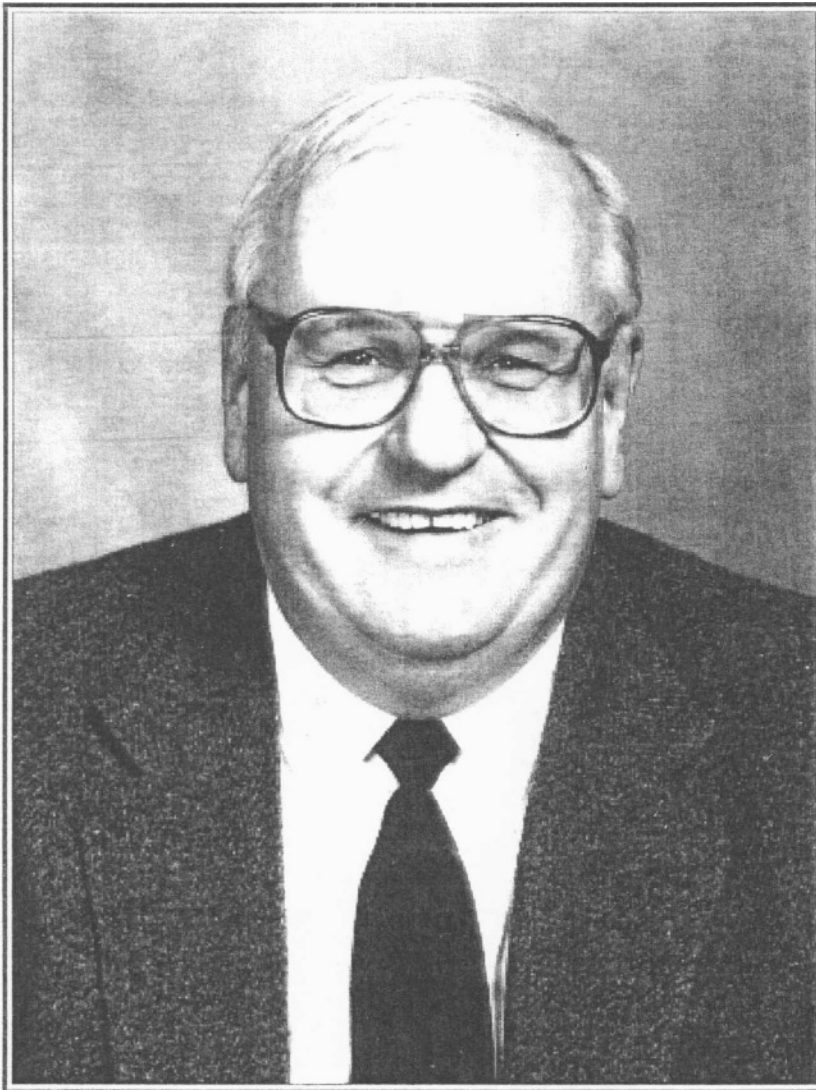
**Jacki Salmon**

**Bloomington Hills Elementary**

**4th grade**

**Mrs. Jennings**

In Loving Memory



*Dr. Leroy R. Walker  
"joker"*

*Born on April 16", 1946 in Lethbridge, Alberta  
Passed away on May 5', 2006 in Salt Lake City, Utah*

# My Grandpa, "Joker"

By Jacki salmon 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

My grandpa's name was Leroy Richard Walker. When he was born his parents didn't know what to call him so his dad looked down at his watch and the brand was Leroy so they named him Leroy. On the way out of the hospital his dad looked at him and called him Joker, which he was known by for the rest of his life. He was my mom's dad.

I think my grandpa was a change maker in a lot of different ways. For instance, my grandpa started work as a P.E. teacher in Cardston, Alberta Canada. They didn't have any football or wrestling in the high school so he started them and ended up coaching football for 30 years. Above the doors going into the gym at the high school are written his theme, "It's amazing how much can be accomplished if no one cares who gets the credit." He always wanted everyone to just do their best and work as a team.

My grandpa and great-grandpa were the main people who built and took care of the football field and the building on it. In 1999, one year after I was born, the school district named the field after both of them. Now there's a big sign on it that says "Walker Field."

Education was very important to my grandpa. He earned his Doctorate Degree from a university in Montana while he was the principal of the high school. It was hard for him to drive to school in the evenings and back to Canada for work the next day before the border closed for the night between Alberta and Montana. After he became superintendent of all the schools in Southern Alberta, he started a program where any of the teachers in Southern Alberta could work on their doctorates, but do a lot of it at home instead of driving so much. He tried to make things easier for others.

Grandpa also tried to be a good example and cared for the widows. For example, one widow he home taught lived in her own home and whenever her shingles on the roof needed fixing, he would do it. One day a salesman came to her house and said that her shingles needed to be replaced. She got so mad. She said, "My home teacher always fixes my shingles and if they needed fixing, he would have done it!" Just a few weeks before my grandpa died, he was called to give a talk to all the men in the stake about home teaching because they felt he was the best home teacher around.

One of my grandpa's favorite scriptures was 3 John 1:4: "I have no greater joy then to hear that my children walk in truth " He always bragged about his kids and grand kids to the people he worked with because he was so proud of them.

Some of my fun memories of Grandpa are getting bubble gum from his huge bubble gum machine in his office, having Rolo ice cream when we went to visit and counting to see who got the most Rolos in their bowl, and cooking hot dogs and smores over the fire. Whenever he visited us, we would play board games at the kitchen table. He would pop us lots of the best popcorn ever when we watched a movie together too.

I love how my grandpa stuck to a task and never quit. He put forth the effort to always make things better and easier for others. My grandpa died when he was 60 and because of all the service he did, we honor him by doing service for someone else on his birthday every year. I'm glad for the example he set for me!